

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. Rosen

DATE: February 27, 1967

Mr. R. I. Shroder

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Wick _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

PURPOSE: To advise the TV show on 2/18/67, entitled "A Majority Rebuttal" was monitored and contained very few references to the FBI.

BACKGROUND: On 2/18/66, at 11 P. M., WTTG-TV, Channel 5, Washington, D. C., carried a two-hour show entitled "A Majority Rebuttal." This show primarily was a defense of the Warren Commission and the principal defender was Mr. Louis Nizer, who was assisted by Mr. Albert E. Jenner, Jr., Assistant Counsel to the Commission, and a Commission staff member, Alfreda Scobey. Representing the critics was Mark Lane, who we know is one of the principal critics of the findings of the Warren Commission, and has traveled world-wide expounding his theories that a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Lane, in this TV show, did not deviate from his theories and did say that shots came from two directions at the time the President was assassinated. He dwelt considerably on the fact that the shot came from the grassy knoll and that a puff of smoke was seen by several witnesses.

Mr. Nizer criticized Lane severely, saying that his criticisms were "petty and nit-picking" as opposed to the objective, scientific proof that was developed by the Warren Commission. He elaborated on the scientific findings, the witnesses, which he considered positive, objective, scientific proof and further that there was no evidence of conspiracy developed.

In furthering his opinion that no evidence of a conspiracy was developed Nizer pointed out that the President's Commission had criticized the FBI and the Secret Service, particularly for not guarding the President adequately. In this respect Mr. Nizer was in error because we were not criticized by the Commission for inadequate protection of the President, as this was not our function. The Commission did say that the FBI took an unduly restrictive role in preventive intelligence work prior to the assassination of President Kennedy.

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During this show other references were made to the FBI, but in each instance they were quotations from laboratory experts' testimony which were made public in the findings of the Commission. In each instance these were not derogatory.

Throughout the television show it could be readily observed that a petty atmosphere of resentment existed between Mr. Nizer and Mark Lane. Mr. Nizer charged Lane distorted and quoted out of context various statements in his book which, according to Mr. Nizer, he believes besmirch the American public and recklessly besmirch the American reputation. Nizer also stated the so-called proof Lane has developed is typical of the trifling kind of points made without any substantial evidence, referring to Lane as "a tiny little hammer picking against a marble structure of substantial evidence." He also said Lane was guilty of continually attempting to confuse the American opinion and especially the Europeans'.

Lane, on several occasions, attempted to refute the charges made against him by Nizer and this was always done in his usual sarcastic way.

The show ended with a summation and Mr. Nizer said that the American people could not reply to Mr. Lane, but that "we will" and will continue to, as he is not doing a service to the country.

There was nothing new brought forth in this TV show, but it appeared Nizer did in some instances effectively put Mr. Lane in his place.

ACTION:

For information.

Handwritten signatures: "Good", "K", and "CIV"